

still suffer today. The peace talks have regrettably made little progress toward the resolution of the Karabagh conflict. Turkey continues to blockade humanitarian aid to Armenia.

However, the Armenian people look hopefully to the future. Their quest for peace and democracy continues to inspire people around the world. On May 30th, Armenia will again hold democratic elections. Armenians who have emigrated to other countries, especially those in my home state of Rhode Island, bring their traditions with them. They enrich the culture and contribute much to the society of their new homelands.

Although each year's commemoration of the Armenian genocide is important, I believe this year's observance is particularly significant—because of the crisis in Kosovo. Each night the television shows images of hundreds of thousands of refugees forced from their homes and each morning the paper is filled with stories of innocent civilians robbed and killed. These stories and images are heartwrenching—but the people of Kosovo have not been abandoned. The nineteen nations of NATO are united in their resolve that another genocide will not be tolerated.

One of the reasons the world could not stand idly by watching events unfold in the Balkans is because of commemorations like the observance of the Armenian Genocide. We must stand as witnesses to protect those who are persecuted because they are different. We must remain vigilant as long as hate and intolerance exist in our world.

Menk panav chen k mornar. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, each year on April 24 many of us in Congress pause to remember the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide. On that date in 1915, more than 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople—now Istanbul—and killed, marking the beginning of an organized campaign to eliminate the Armenian presence from the Ottoman Empire. This brutal campaign would result in the massacre of a million and a half Armenian men, women and children.

Thousands of Armenians were subjected to torture, deportation, slavery and murder. More than 500,000 were removed from their homes and sent on forced death marches through the deserts of Syria. This dark time is among the saddest chapters in the history of man.

But Armenians are strong people and their dream of freedom did not die. More than seventy years after the genocide, the new Republic of Armenia was born as the Soviet Union crumbled. Today, we pay tribute to the courage and strength of a people who would not know defeat.

Yet, independence has not meant an end to their struggle. There are still

those who question the reality of the Armenian slaughter. There are those who have failed to recognize its very existence. We must not allow the horror of the Armenian genocide to be either diminished or denied.

Genocide is the worst of all crimes against humanity. As indications of genocide arise in Kosovo, it is especially important to remember those who lost their lives in the first genocide of this century. We must never forget the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

HONORING CARL LINDNER

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to salute a truly great American on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Carl Lindner is an important figure in the history of American business—he is also a good man and a dear friend.

The Carl Lindner story is a genuine, old-fashioned American success story. He came from a modest background. He started out delivering milk—and ended up owning an ice cream company. And many other companies besides!

He was born in Dayton, Ohio, on April 22, 1919. He grew up in the small town of Norwood, in Hamilton County. And he brought the values he learned there to the creation of a huge business empire—United Dairy Farmers, American Financial Corporation, Chiquita Brands, Penn Central Corporation, Great American Communications Company.

And throughout all of this, Carl Lindner remains today a kind, unassuming family man—with the values of a businessman beloved by his friends in a small town. A man who cares about others—and about the welfare of his whole community.

It has been said that just about everybody who grows up in southwest Ohio spends at least some time working for one of Carl Lindner's companies. He is certainly one of the key employers in the entire Tristate area, if not the country.

But he doesn't just help people by employing them. He is also one of the most generous philanthropists in America. He is a quiet man with a heart of gold—and he works tirelessly to improve the health and education of the people of Ohio, our nation, and the whole world.

Mr. President, America gave Carl Lindner the opportunity to work hard and achieve a great deal. And he has given a lot back to this country. His most important contribution—is his example. He proves that the most important thing in a man's life is not how much money he makes, but what he does for people.

He is not a man who clamors for attention; this week, he is in the headlines because of his purchase of the Cincinnati Reds. But the real Carl

Lindner—the one I know—is a man whose most important priority is helping people.

To Carl Lindner, on his eightieth birthday, the people of Ohio say congratulations, and a deep and heartfelt thank you from all of us whose lives you have touched!

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 531. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 999. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve quality of coastal recreation waters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1184. An act to authorize appropriations for carrying out the Earthquake hazards Reductions Act of 1977 for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House disagrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 1141) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes, and agrees to the conference asked by the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. REGULA, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. OBEY, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. DICKS, Mr. SABO, Mr. HOYER, Mr. MOLLOAHN, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SERRANO, AND Mr. PASTOR as the managers of the conference on the part of the House.